

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
June 26, 2013, 7:00 PM.
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Attendance:

Steve Deters, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association.
Eugene Wasserman, Broadview Community Council.
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council.
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council.
Michelle Averill, Greenwood Community Council.
Randy Harkness, Haller Lake Community Club.
Velva Maye, Haller Lake Community Club.
Jan Brucker, Licton Springs Community Council.
Ann Bowden, Phinney Neighborhood Association.
Irene Wall, Phinney Ridge Community Council.
Jacqueline Sorgen, 36th District Democrats.

Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.
Gloria Butts, Bitter Lake P-Patch.
Tom Green, Viewlands PTSA.
Jeffrey Linn, McDonald School PTSA.

Carey DeMartini, Broadview.
Ron Hornung, Green Lake.
Ron Lewis.
Tom Schubert.
Vita Sheehy, Broadview.

Rob Mattson, City Of Seattle Department Of Neighborhoods.
Jonathon Dong, City Of Seattle Department Of Transportation.

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:04 pm by Chair Rick Klingele. There were introductions and short announcements. Velva Maye, Haller Lake Community Club announced Randy Harkness as her replacement. She was thanked for her many years of service. Haller Lake Community Club also has a new president: Shawn MacPherson.

2. **Minutes from the May 22, 2013** meeting were approved as written. The motion was initiated by Steve Deters, seconded by Ellen Hewitt, and passed with one abstention.

<http://nwdistrictcouncil.org/pdf/NWDCMay222013.pdf>

3. The SDOT proposal for **BAT Lanes for Aurora Avenue** was presented by Jonathan Dong, Seattle DOT. More details are available @

http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/aurora_rapidride_BAT.htm

Q and A followed. It was noted that "I don't know" was still the answer to questions that had been asked in previous forums on this topic. While it is understood that engagement personnel will not have the answers to some questions the first time that they are heard,

there is an expectation that these personnel WILL have the answers when the same questions are asked at subsequent engagement events.

Next steps: Comments due by July 5, 2013. Eugene Wasserman will head up a group to meet again with SDOT. Five or six members volunteered. The group will gather questions and concerns (of the NWDC) to give to SDOT in writing.

4. 2013 NPSF (Neighborhood Park Street Fund).

Annually, the City of Seattle provides \$1.25M citywide to fund small-scale improvements to Seattle streets and parks. Each of Seattle's 13 districts is provided approximately \$90K from this program to fund projects in their district. Proposals come from community groups and individuals.

The 2013 funding cycle attracted nine (9) proposals in the Northwest District, including six (6) in an area of overlap with Lake Union District Council and two (2) in an area of overlap with the North District Council. At its meeting in March 2013, the NWDC recommended three (3) proposals which were forwarded to SDOT for further analysis.

At this meeting (June 2013), via written ballot, the three projects were aligned in order of funding priority. Project evaluations were shared in advance with proponents as well as NWDC representatives.

The Council voted to rank the projects as follows:

- #1 - NPF 2013-080 - Wheelchair ramps on Fremont Ave N @ N 79th & N 81st - \$60,000.*
- #2 - NPF 2013-042 - Curb extension at Latona Ave NE & NE 55th - \$35,500.*
- #3 - NPF 2013-071 - Crosswalk across 5th Ave NE at NE 115th Street - \$0 (not approved by SDOT).*

All of these projects will likely be funded because this district is guaranteed \$90,000 in projects.

5. 2013 NSF (Neighborhood Streets Fund).

The 2006 Bridging the Gap Levy provided nearly \$300M to construct a host of transportation improvements in Seattle. One component of the levy is the NSF (Neighborhood Streets Fund). During the nine-year life of the levy, three (3) opportunities for citizens and community groups were provided through the NSF to suggest needed transportation improvements in their neighborhood. The last of these three \$4.5M funding cycles occurs this year for projects throughout the city. SDOT received six (6) proposals from the Northwest District by the December 17, 2012 deadline.

At its meeting in February 2013, NWDC selected three (3) proposals to be evaluated by SDOT for further consideration.

At this meeting (June 2013), via written ballot, the three projects were aligned in order of funding priority. Project evaluations were shared in advance with proponents as well as NWDC representatives.

There was a discussion of the proposals and the proposing groups had the opportunity to explain and advocate for their projects.

The NWDC ranked the projects as follows:

- #1 - NSF 2013-030 - Viewlands Elementary School 3rd NW sidewalk between NW 105th & NW 110th = \$505,000.*
- #2 - NSF 2013-029 - Greenwood Ave N sidewalks between N 92nd & N 105th = \$2,900,000.*
- #3 - NSF 2013-028 - BEATS (Broadway Easy Access to the Sound) Sidewalk to Carkeek Park entrance.*

Segment 1 = \$325,000 (Proposers rank this segment #1)
Segment 2 = \$1,030,000
Segment 3 = \$310,000
Total \$1,665,000

Rob suggested putting some context into the recommendations. We should make it clear that we support all the projects. Rick (with a hand from Rob) will aim to draft a letter (and circulate it to the Council) to submit with the NWDC rank ordering.

{Editor's note: **See "Minutes Supplement", below**, containing the result, which is just a conversation, not a fully vetted letter. The NWDC can consider reformatting this or similar text into a letter in August 2013.}

6. Annual Election of NWDC Officers.

Each June, NWDC elects a chairperson (or co-chairs) and a secretary. Eugene Wasserman, representing the Broadview Community Council, agreed to stand for election as president. Peter House, representing the 43rd District Democrats agreed to stand for election as secretary. The nominations were approved unanimously by voice vote.

7. Staff Report, Rob Mattson

NWDC has a fund **balance of approximately \$440**. Rob recommended that the council should purchase a high quality projector (about \$300); we also could use funds for a 2-hour tour of all the neighborhoods in the district.

8. Chair's Report, Rick Klingele.

- There was a discussion of a letter from NWDC to Mayor McGinn (cc to City Council) regarding city resources (funding) for **sidewalks**. Rick distributed two drafts of a possible letter and the Council approved Draft 2 (including a map of places in the city without sidewalks). There was discussion of cc'ing the applicable state legislators, but this was not chosen. The NWDC is in pieces of 4 WA legislative districts.
- The next NWDC meeting will be August 28, 2013 @ 7 PM, Greenwood Senior Center. **There will not be a July meeting.**

9. CNC (City Neighborhood Council) Report, Irene Wall.

- Irene distributed the CNC letter to the mayor concerning **budget priorities**.
- The CNC discussed the controversial **micro-housing** issue.
- The CNC discussed the pitfalls of continuously customizing the **building code** to meet the needs of individual projects.
- The CNC election forum video will soon be available @ (<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/>).

10. Good of the Order

- The **Seattle Neighborhood Coalition** will have an open meeting on July 13, 2013 (second Saturday) in the Central Area Senior Center, 500 – 30th Avenue South. This is a new location and these are now catered.
- The Linden Avenue Complete Street grand opening will also be July 13, 2013.
- Tabling opportunities exist @ the SPD NPAC summer picnic, July 13, 2013.

11. The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Peter House.

Minutes Supplement:

The following supplement, regarding the NSF is explained above.

Monday, July 8, 2013 9:34 AM.

To: Rick Klingele

From: Rob Mattson

Thanks Rick. I'll be submitting the NWDC ranking for both NSF and NPSF projects today. I'll keep your summary and observations for the record.

- Rob

Monday, July 08, 2013 12:21 AM.

To: Rob Mattson

From: Rick Klingele

Subject: NSF (Neighborhood Streets Fund).

In case this is due today, I figured I'd better send what notes I have for the submittal.

-- NSF (Neighborhood Streets Fund).

(http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/btg_nsf_large.htm).

(http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/nsf13/nsf_nw.pdf).

Forced to rank the 3 projects as 1,2,3 (perfect score = 1), here were the results:

NSF 2013-30 Viewlands Elementary Sidewalk. Average rank = 1.8.

NSF 2013-29 Greenwood Ave N Sidewalks (92nd-105th). Average rank = 1.9.

NSF 2013-28 Carkeek "BEATS" Sidewalk (section 1 only). Average rank = 2.3.

-- All 3 projects were considered desirable and considered obvious and overdue.

Here is some context regarding that decision:

-- NSF 2013-30 was recognized as providing benefit to a particularly vulnerable demographic, children. The application of "Safe Routes To Schools" funding to this project was interpreted as an indication that SDOT considered this project to be particularly worthy on a citywide basis.

Although temporary measures have improved the safety at Viewlands, the conditions outside this reopened school seem clearly sub-par.

-- NSF 2013-29 was recognized as providing benefit to the largest and widest demographic. Greenwood Avenue North's infrastructure seems clearly sub-par for a major arterial with rapidly increasing density within walking distance of necessary amenities but lacking the infrastructure for safe walking.

It was noted that the census block which surrounds this section of this arterial has the highest ranking for "Transit Dependency" according to Figure 1-4 of (<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/tmp/final/TMPFinalSummaryReportandAppendices.pdf>), due to densities of lower-income households, persons with disabilities and seniors.

It was estimated that the prioritization of various portions of the project would require consideration of many factors, including information from SDOT and KC Metro not currently available, and therefore the project was not redefined to a particular portion of a size more NSF-compatible.

The fact that the NSF rules do not specify a maximum cost for a project was clarified by Art Brochet (SDOT NSF) via email who stated that the project proposals are being ranked now, but the actual scope of the projects can be flexed 'down the road'.

-- NSF 2013-28 discussion was reduced to section 1 of the proposal as it was the preference of the applicants.

116th street immediately outside of the Carkeek park entrance approaching the Fern Glen Trail is a curved road lacking even shoulder for pedestrians and therefore clearly conflicts with the expected use of the park and trail.
